

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 01305 030802Z

13-12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 IGA-02 ACDA-05 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

L-03 EUR-12 MC-02 /070 W

----- 022759

R 021549Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3129

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 1305

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, NI, XA

SUBJ: REGIONAL ARMS RESTRAINTS STUDY

REF : STATE 20621

1. NIGERIA MAINTAINS LARGEST STANDING ARMY IN AFRICA. NEW GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, IS IN PROCESS "MODERNIZING" ARMY WHICH WILL ENTAIL REDUCING NUMBER OF ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL TO SOMETHING AROUND 100,000 (FROM SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 200-250,000) AND PROVIDING ARMED FORCES WITH NEW EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES. THE CURRENT MILITARY GOVERNMENT INTENDS HAVE THIS PROCESS SO FAR ADVANCED THAT IT CANNOT BE REVERSED WHEN CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT RETURNED TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 01305 030802Z

CIVILIAN RULE IN FALL 1979.

2. MODERNIZING PROCESS WILL ENTAIL THE PURCHASE OF NEW MILITARY HARDWARE AND OTHER EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING TANKS, PLANES, TRUCKS, ARTILLERY, HOUSING, CLOTHING. EVEN THOUGH NIGERIA HAS VERY HEALTHY CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE AS RESULT OF BOOMING OIL SALES, LEADERS OF NIGERIAN MILITARY HAVE INDICATED THAT ONE OF REASONS FOR CUT IN SIZE OF ARMED FORCES IS THAT DEFENSE EXPENDITURES (25-30 PERCENT OF ANNUAL BUDGET) CANNOT MAINTAIN SUCH A LARGE ARMY AND AT SAME TIME PROVIDE ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO PAY FOR NEW EQUIPMENT. THIS BECAUSE OF DEMANDS ON GOVERNMENT RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

3. ASIDE FROM THIS BUDGETARY CONSIDERATION, THERE ARE NO OTHER APPARENT RESTRAINTS WHICH WOULD DISSUADE NIGERIA FROM ACQUIRING NEW WEAPONS. A CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT MIGHT EXERCISE A BIT MORE RESTRAINT, BUT WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BEAR IN MIND THAT IT BETTER KEEP THE ARMY HAPPY THAN HAVE IT PLOTTING COUPS IN THE BARRACKS. IF THE BUDGETARY RESTRAINTS WERE REMOVED, IT LIKELY NIGERIANS (WHO ALREADY IN POSSESSION MODERN JETS, MIG-21'S) WOULD GO IN FOR SURFACE-TO-AIR, AIR-TO-AIR AND AIR-TO-GROUND MISSILES. IT APPEARS THAT EVEN WITH PRESENT LIMITATIONS, NIGERIANS LIKELY WILL ACQUIRE MODERN TANKS, ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS AND SOME GROUND-TO-GROUND ROCKETS (OF TYPE BEING USED BY MPLA IN ANGOLA).

4. THERE IS NO RPT NO ROLE FOR USG TO PLAY IN PROVIDING ANY INCENTIVE TO FMG ENCOURAGE IT TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT WITH REGARD ARMS PURCHASES. ANY ACTION WE MIGHT TAKE WOULD BE LOOKED UPON BY THIS GOVERNMENT AS INTERFERENCE IN NIGERIAN AFFAIRS AND AS COVER FOR EFFORT SUPPORT VORSTER AND RHODESIAN REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. ADJECTIVES NIGERIANS USED TO DESCRIBE U.S. ANGOLAN POLICY WOULD BE BROUGHT TO FORE AGAIN WITH VENGEANCE. MEMORIES OF U.S. REFUSAL SELL ARMS DURING CIVIL WAR WOULD ALSO BE REVIVED. MOREOVER, IT UNLIKELY NIGERIA'S NEIGHBORS WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL IN PRESENTING A UNITED FRONT TO FMG AND URGING A REGIONAL RESTRICTION ON WEAPONS ACQUISITION. NIGERIAN DESIRES PLAY LEADERSHIP ROLE REQUIRE MODERN ARMY IF ITS POWER (WITHIN AFRICAN CONTEXT) IS TO BE CREDIBLE. FURTHER, IT LIKELY THAT GIVEN FORESEEABLE INTERNAL POLITICAL REALITIES, NIGERIA WILL MAINTAIN RELATIVELY LARGE ARMY FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LAGOS 01305 030802Z

5. ONE DEVELOPMENT WOULD ACT AS A CONSTRAINT ON NIGERIAN ARMS PURCHASES: A SHARP DROP IN THE PRICE OF PETROLEUM. DEFENSE BUDGET WOULD PRESUMABLY HAVE TO BE CUT PROPORTIONATELY WITH FALL IN REVENUE IF GOVERNMENT WERE TO MEET MINIMUM DEVELOPMENTAL AND SOCIAL DEMANDS ON ITS RESOURCES.
EASUM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, ARMS CONTROL INSPECTION, MILITARY CAPABILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LAGOS01305
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760040-0245
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760292/aaaadcwq.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 20621
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <23 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REGIONAL ARMS RESTRAINTS STUDY
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, PARM, NI, XA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006